

My Submission on the Kurri Kurri Power Station

I OPPOSE the project

Snowy Hydro, the builder of the proposed power station, has a EIS completed and I expect it's proposed to run the plant on diesel until gas is available and then on fossil gas. Both of these are fossil fuels and both would create considerable pollution. Although gas, should it ever be available to the plant, may produce less CO₂ than coal or diesel, it would still be contributing to greenhouse gas pollution.

Although they say it will be *Hydrogen Ready*, I understand gas turbines can only burn about 15% hydrogen before there would need to be modifications made before a greater percentage of hydrogen could be used as the fuel. So it wouldn't be *Hydrogen Ready* but it could be modified. And if the hydrogen is anything other than pollution-free green hydrogen then it would still be polluting.

The Hunter Valley has already been subject to far more than its share of pollution from coal extraction and the burning of coal in power stations. With the closure of the Liddell coal power station in 2023 there will be the opportunity to reduce our carbon pollution. A gas fired power station is the wrong approach, no matter how infrequently it is used.

The arguments about solar PV being unreliable need investigating. The Bureau of Meteorology has records of solar exposure throughout Australia covering at least the last 30 years but looking at just this year, much of Eastern Australia experienced a record rainfall event in March. Solar exposure was considerably reduced over much of the East but not everywhere and not all on the same days.

The PDF chart shows solar exposure at representative BOM weather stations within or close to the East Australia high voltage electricity grid. I'm not suggesting that all these districts, and certainly not only these districts, are suitable for solar capture. I'm just showing in the chart that, even in the March extreme weather event, areas within the electricity grid footprint received good insolation while other areas didn't.

The BOM doesn't seem to have wind charts so wind generation during the extreme weather event is not available to me but it would be very unlikely that wind generation suffered the same drop as solar on the same days. Solar and wind, backed up with batteries, hydro power, molten salt technology and possibly other emerging technologies, there's proof that the Kurri Kurri plant is not needed.

I believe this plant should not be built. There is no rational argument able to support the development because the Gas Led Recovery cannot be justified.

But if, despite no justifiable reason to build the plant, it is approved then I demand the following: -

1. The power station must never be powered by diesel fuel.
2. Should this plant be the supplier of last resort, Snowy Hydro (the Australian Government) must not be allowed to hold the grid and the East Coast to ransom by demanding an extortionate price for supply.